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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/749,078	12/27/2000	Stuart Lloyd Geary	07 37549	3272

7590 11/08/2004

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EXAMINER

JEANTY, ROMAIN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3623

DATE MAILED: 11/08/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/749,078

Applicant(s)

GEARY, STUART LLOYD

Examiner

Romain Jeanty

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 December 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Non-Final Office Action is in response to the filing of this application on December 27, 2000. Claims 1-19 are pending on the application and are examined on the merits.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 3-5, 7, and 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Alwang (Instant groupware. (seven 'teamware' packages (include related articles on the editors' choice, suitability to task, the best and worst features of the packages, the groupware components of Microsoft and Netscape Web browsers, chat software for business, and document management software)).

As per claims 1, 3-5, and 9-10, Alwang discloses:

maintaining a record of information for determining the approach of task due dates for a plurality of client entities, maintaining hypermedia server means for receiving task performance instructions, at a plurality of times (i.e., server for storing task information) sending an electronic message to each client entity for which a task due date falls within a succeeding predetermined period, receiving an instruction to perform a task from a client entity by means of the hypermedia server means, wherein said electronic messages include means for causing a client entity to request a page from the hypermedia server means (i.e., server for storing task assignments/information and sending

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email messages to users/members in order to perform task assignments and HTWL to incorporate pages for navigation). Note page 5-11 of Alwang.

Claim 7 is an apparatus for administering a repetitive task of method claim 1; therefore is rejected under the same rationale.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 2, 6, 8, 11-19, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alwang (Instant groupware. (seven 'teamware' packages (include related articles on the editors' choice, suitability to task, the best and worst features of the packages, the groupware components of Microsoft and Netscape Web browsers, chat software for business, and document management software).

As per claims 2, 8, 12, and 17, Alwang does not explicitly disclose wherein the electronic messages do not identify the task due dates to which they relate. However, incorporating an electronic message not having a task due into the disclosure of Alwang would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art in order to prevent information about the due date of the task from being read by other users.

As per claims 6, 15, 19, Alwang discloses all of the limitations above, but fails to disclose wherein said task is payment of a renewal fee for an intellectual property right. However, it would have

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been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate performing a task for payment of a renewal fee for an intellectual property with the motivation to authorize payment for a service, thereby avoiding paying late fee.

As per claims 11-14, 16, and 18, recites the same limitations of claim 1 above, except a page identifier and loading the page identifier into browser of the client computer. However, it is old and well known to incorporate a page identifier when displaying transmitting and displaying a page to a user's computer for proper indexing purposes. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate a page identifier into the disclosures of Alwang for allowing easy retrieval of the page.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

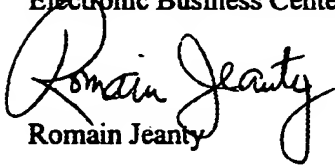
- a. Miller (U.S. Patent No. 6,101,481) discloses a task management system.
- b. Jalia (U.S. Patent No. 6,445,968) discloses a process for planning and scheduling a task.
- c. Olapurath et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,678,714) disclose a task management system for processing tasks.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Romain Jeanty whose telephone number is (703) 308-9585. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs 7:30 am - 6:00 pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq R Hafiz can be reached on (703) 305-9643. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Romain Jeanty", is written over the printed name.

Romain Jeanty

Primary Examiner

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September 20, 2004